MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: With regard even to textiles, we will be issuing special ration cards, because it is desirable not to mix it with ration cards for foodstuffs.

PRESIDENT: The orders have already been passed.

Petrol supplied to the Travancore Fertilisers and Chemicals Co. Ltd., Alwaye.

334. * MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state, how many gallons of petrol are supplied to the Travancore Fertilisers and Chemicals Co. Ltd., Alwaye every month?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: 1,350 gallons per month approximately.

Complaints about Mr. A. R. Padmanabha Rao, Second Judge, Alleppey.

335. * MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they or the High Court have received complaints about Mr. A. R. Padmanabha Rao, Second Judge, Alleppey, and if so, what action they have taken in the matter.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI; Yes. The matter was enquired into and it was found that the allegations in the complaints were not proved.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the honourable member the nature of the allegations made against Mr. Padmanabha Rao?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: I may submit, Sir, that the whole matter is confidential. There were allegations of corruption.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what was the nature of the enquiry made? Who was sent to enquire?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: The High Court enquired into the matter and I may state for your information that the complainant himself backed out.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know why a public enquiry was not made?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: A public enquiry was not called for in the ciurcumstances. If the honourable member himself would make a definite statement on the floor of the House, a formal enquiry would be considered.

PRESIDENT: But the complainant himself withdrew the complaint. Now, there was a complaint. Very elaborate particulars were given of the days and occasions on which bribes were taken or alleged to be taken by this member of the judicial department, and also as to the supplies that were demanded, and so on and so forth. Then the High Court ordered an enquiry into the matter and made certain enquiries. In the meantime the complainant withdrew the complaint and stated he did not even sign the complaint. Then how can the matter be proceeded with?

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MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the honourable member whether he is aware that there is an impression in Alleppey and in several parts of Travancore that he is corrupt?

PRESIDENT: That is rather unfair to the person. Bnt as the honourable member has now definitely made that charge, I shall take the necessary steps to make enquiries into the matter. But at the same time, I realise that it is incumbent upon honourable members to make a charge of corruption definitely. If the honourable member can tell me that he is satisfied that the officer is corrupt.....

MR. K. A. MATHEW: My question was whether Government are aware that there is that impression?

PRESIDENT: Why, many persons are in service who are not quite straight. That is a very wide impression.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: I was suggesting.....

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: How many complaints were there against him?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: There was to my knowledge only one written complaint. There the complainant withdrew by saying he did not sign it. There were many oral, and as I may call, back-door complaints. All these were enquired into by a judge of the High Court, who paid a surprise visit to the place and called up the complainant and others. The complainant withdrew, and the other did not come forward to make statements. I am inviting honourable members to give definite statements. We shall then, if you want, institute a public enquiry.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Karunagapally* cum *Karthigapally*): അങ്ങനെ പേരു പറഞ്ഞു് ഒരു ആരോപണം ഉണ്ടായാൽ പബ്ളിക്കു് എൻകയറിയിൽ തെളിവു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഈ പറയുന്ന മെംബറിനു വല്ല സ്ഥാനവുമുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: തെളിവു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ധാരാളം സ്ഥാനമുണ്ടു്.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: ആരുടെ മുമ്പിലാണു് തെളിവു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു്?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: ആ കേസു നടത്തുന്ന സർക്കാർ വക്കീലിന്റെയോ പ്രോസിക്യൂട്ടരുടെയോ അടുക്കൽ കൊടുക്കണം.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: സർക്കാർ വക്കീൽ ആ തെളിവു സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ വിസമ്മതിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിലോ?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: അപ്പോൾ കോടതി മുൻപാകെ ഹർജി കൊടുത്തു് തെളിവു ഹാജരാക്കാം.

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MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether Government will be pleased to transfer this particular officer to some other department?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: That question does not arise.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. This officer is guilty of corruption, he does not deserve to be in service at all. The suggestion that some other department can put up with a corrupt officer is not wholesome. Apart from that, I would ask honourable members to consider the position. Government undoubtedly heard from many sources that there were complaints against this officer, Mr. A. R. Padmanabha Rao. They received complaints. Many letters which when investigated, turned out to be pseudonymous-honourable members will realise that on the basis of pseudonymous letters an enquiry cannot be set up—were received by Government. There were some letters giving very specific particulars and the officer himself was quite prepared to stand a public enquiry. The High Court was asked to conduct an enquiry. As has already been explained by the Advocate General, a Judge of the High Court went to the place on a surprise visit and wanted people to bring complaints to him, not only the persons who sent the letters, but others also. The complaint was subsequently withdrawn. And although he invited people to come forward and make complaints, no one single person came up. In these circumstances what can Government do?

Munsiff Magistrate's Court.

336. *P. K. KURIAKOSE: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the reason for abolishing the permanent Munsiff Magistrate's Court from Devicolam taluk;

(*b*) whether any complaint from the public has been received by the Government to restore the permanent Munsiff Magistrate's Court to that place; and

(*c*) what decision has been made on the representation?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Want of sufficient work for a full-time officer.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The present arrangement being only tentative for one year, the matter will be considered after the expiry of the period in the light of the conditions then existing.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether the Government are aware that the Munnar and Devicolam towns are growing in importance day by day.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I may at once say that it is only experimental and at the end of one year proper action will be taken, if it is unfound that a full time court is necessary.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether the Government are convinced that there is need for a Munsiff's court at Devicolam?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: Government are awaiting the results of the experiment and will decide at the end of the year.

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